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LETTER DATED 10 NOVEMBER 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AUSTRIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 9 November 1998 by the Presidency of the European Union concerning Iraq (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ernst SUCHARIPA
Permanent Representative of Austria
to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement on Iraq issued on 9 November 1998
by the European Union

The European Union condemns as totally unacceptable Iraq's decision of 31 October to cease all cooperation with the United Nations Special Commission. The European Union supports the Security Council's response to that decision, resolution 1205 (1998) of 5 November. The European Union urges Iraq to resume full cooperation with the Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency immediately, and expresses its continued support for both organizations. The European Union also welcomes the fact that the Security Council has again expressed its readiness to hold a comprehensive review of Iraq's obligations once Iraq has resumed cooperation. The European Union expresses its strong hope that Iraq will do so soon and confirms its full support for the Secretary-General in his efforts to seek full implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding of 23 February 1998.

Meanwhile, the European Union will work together with all the neighbours of Iraq to seek the more effective enforcement of existing sanctions. Specifically, the Presidency (Troika) will make contact with those countries to that end. At the same time, the European Union will work to continue to ensure more effective implementation of the oil-for-food programme and full Iraqi cooperation in preventing any unnecessary suffering for the Iraqi people.